

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. today issued this statement following today's passage of H.R. 4145, a bill to place a statue of Rosa Parks in National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol.

Jackson said, "I am so pleased that Congress acted promptly to pass my legislation that places a life-size statue of Rosa Parks in such a prestigious, prominent and permanent location in the United States Capitol. This is a fitting tribute to an American heroine whose act of courage and dignity helped to transform the country."

Jackson added, "With the passage of this historic legislation, the Rosa Parks statue will become the first sculpture of an African American in National Statuary Hall. As such, the memory and legacy of Rosa Parks, who during her life helped to brake down barriers and overcome oppression, will live on, literally etched in stone, for generations to come.

"Indeed, her statue will symbolize the nation's triumph and progression from segregation to integration, from oppression to equality, and from division to union -- a more perfect Union. It will be a testament to the fact that the long arc of history bends toward freedom, justice and equality.

"I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate for their broad, bipartisan and enthusiastic support for this important measure. I hope that the President will sign this bill in a formal ceremony on December 1, which will mark the 50th Anniversary of Rosa Parks' singular and courageous act of civil disobedience," Jackson said.